

Application No. 10/799,110
Amendment dated September 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2005

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-23, 24/1, 24/7, 24/13, and 24/18 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 18, 21, 23, and 24/18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,289,317 to Ikemori et al ("Ikemori et al").

Claims 1-17, 24/1, 24/7 and 24/13 are allowed.

Claims 19, 20, and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The acknowledgement, in the Office Action, of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received, is noted with appreciation.

The indication, in the Office Action, that the Examiner has no objections to the drawings filed on March 12, 2004, is noted with appreciation.

Comments Regarding Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action notes in the section "Allowable Subject Matter" that claims 1, 7, and 13 are allowed because "the prior art does not teach or suggest a three unit zoom lens system with a + - configuration that satisfies" the numerical conditions of those claims. It is believed that the Office Action was meant to recite that the prior art does not teach or suggest a three unit zoom lens system with a - + configuration since claims 1, 7, and 13 recites "the first lens unit having a negative optical power, the second lens unit having a positive optical power... ." The description of the prior art reference, Ikemori et al. in the

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35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection, and an examination of that reference suggest that the prior art searched was that with a first lens unit having a negative optical power and a second lens unit having a positive optical power. It is respectfully suggested, then, that the description in the notice of allowance is a typo and that it should read that the prior art does not teach or suggest a three unit zoom lens system with a - + configuration that satisfies the numerical conditions claimed.

Claim Amendments

Claim 20 has been amended to become an independent claim including all of the limitations of claim 18. These changes do not introduce any new matter and should put claim 20 into allowable condition as indicated by the Office Action mailed June 27, 2005.

Claim 24 has been amended to cancel claim 24/18 and, therefore, depends only from claims 1, 7, and 13. These changes do not introduce new matter.

Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, and 24/18 have been cancelled.

It is believed that these changes put the application into condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.


This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not increase the number of multiple dependent claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

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If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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